

Laptop Desirable Features: (read notes)

Base Features		Notes (see below)
Approximate Battery Life	Not Listed	
Hard Drive Speed/Capacity	250GB 5400RPM	1
Optical Drive	8X Dual Layer DVD+/-RW With Lightscribe	2
Processor Speed	2.0GHz	3
Processor Type	Intel Pentium Dual-Core T3200	4
RAM	3GB DDR2	5
Screen Size	17.0"	6
Graphics		
Discrete Video Memory	No	
Expandable Video Memory	No	
Graphics Chipset	Intel GMA 4500MHD	
Integrated Video Memory	Yes	
Native Screen Resolution	1440 x 900	
Upgradable Video System	No	
Video Memory	Up To 1277MB	
Audio		
Audio Chipset	Altec Lansing	
Audio Output	Stereo	
Digital Input	No	
Digital Output	No	
Hardware Volume Control	No	
Integrated Amplifier	Yes	
Integrated Microphone	Yes	7
Microphone Input	Yes	
Speaker Wattage	Not Provided By Manufacturer	
Speakers	Integrated	
Inputs/Outputs		
Card Reader	Yes	8
Card Reader - Compatible Memory Types	SD/MMC/MS/MS PRO/xD	
Composite Output	No	
ExpressCard/34 Input	No	
ExpressCard/54 Input	No	
HDCP Compliant	Yes	
HDMI Port	Yes	9
IEEE 1394 Input/Output	No	
IR Receiver	No	
Number of Touchpad Buttons	1	
PC Card Input	No	
S-Video Output	No	
Type of Keyboard	101-Key Compatible	
Type of Modem	High Speed 56K	10
Type of Pointing Device	Touchpad	
USB 2.0	3	11
VGA Output	1	
Webcam	Yes	12
Networking		
Ethernet Port	10/100BASE-T (RJ-45 Connector)	13

Integrated Bluetooth	No	
Integrated WiFi	Wireless LAN 802.11a/b/g/n WLAN	14
Power		
Battery - Capacity	Not Provided By Manufacturer	
Battery - Number of Cells	6-Cell	15
Battery Type	Lithium-Ion	16
Computing Features		
Processor Cache	1MB L2	
Removable Storage	No	
System Bus	667MHz FSB	17
Software		
English/French Software	Bilingual	
Loaded Software 1	HP PhotoSmart Essentials	
Loaded Software 2	HP DVD Play	
Loaded Software 3	Muvee autoProducer	
Loaded Software 4		
Pre-loaded Operating System	Windows Vista Home Basic with SP1	18
Accessories		
Headphones	No	
Remote	No	
Product Features		
Notebook Depth	28.5 cm	
Notebook Thickness (closed)	39.6 cm	
Notebook Weight (including Battery)	3.3 kg	
Notebook Width	3.7 cm	
Warranty Labour	1 Year	19
Warranty Parts	1 Year	20

Notes: (these are my opinions based on my experiences)

1. This represents the amount of storage you have on your unit. Your programs and all your documents and pictures are stored here and the minimum I would recommend would be 160 Gb.
2. 8X represents the speed at which this DVD recorder will write. 8X is standard. Dual Layer will allow you to burn the higher denser blanks. If you are copying some DVD's that contain more than 4.7 Gb, you will need this feature but it is not necessary. The +/-RW refers to the type of blanks that you can record. This drive will handle all the various DVD blanks there are available. Remember, this type of drive will also burn CDR's or your audio CD's. Lightscribe is a feature which will allow you to design a CD or DVD label and etch it into the blank disk, however you need to buy special blank disks and the label will be etched by a laser onto the label.

3. 2.0GHz represents the processor speed. You will some that are faster 2.2GHz or slower 1.8GHz but this is really not a critical feature.
4. Intel Pentium Dual-Core T3200 is the manufacture of the processor. AMD is also another manufacturer that is acceptable. Dual-Core is basically standard in most laptops today. **Stay away from Intel Celeron (old & slow technology)!**
5. 3GB DDR2 represents the RAM (Random Access Memory) within the laptop. With the new operating system, Windows Vista, this feature is probably the most critical in a laptop. **I would recommend no less than 2GB!**
6. Screen size is a matter of preference. Laptops with either a 16" or 17" or larger screen usually come with a full keyboard which includes the numeric keypad so if you do a lot with numbers, this maybe a desirable feature. The most common size for laptops is 15.4" and you can buy an external numeric keypad, if necessary. I would stay away from these new mini laptops as the screen size is usually 9" and the keyboard is small as well as the memory and storage space.
7. Microphone is a nice feature but not necessary, can be added later if needed.
8. Card readers are another feature, however most digital cameras come with a cable to transfer your pictures and usually you only use 1 type of memory card yet they supply this reader with 5 different types.
9. HDMI port is another nice feature especially since all new TV's now have HDMI inputs, however this is a feature I don't think I would use.
10. Virtually all laptops have a 56K modem which you use to access the internet through a dial-up service provider or use this feature to send faxes.
11. USB 2.0 is the most common feature on laptops today. Virtually everything you buy today to connect to your laptop, you would use this port. Although most laptops have 2 or 3 ports, you can buy expanders to add more devices to you machine.
12. Webcam is another nice feature if you would like to use MSN Messenger to chat and view your friends. This is another feature which can be added after if necessary.
13. An Ethernet Port is another standard feature which will allow you to connect to the internet via a wired connection (i.e. Cogeco or Sympatico)
14. Wireless LAN 802.11a/b/g/n WLAN will be your connection to the internet via the wireless environment (i.e. malls, Welland Library or some hotels). This now seems to be a standard feature on most laptops.

15. Most batteries are 6-cell which should give you around 3 hours of use. The more cells the battery has will extended your computing time between recharging.
16. Lithium-Ion batteries are now the standard because they do not have memory problems of the past.
17. 667MHz FSB describes the system bus speed which is actually to speed at which the CPU converses with the memory and your storage device. 667MHz is the standard for memory cards today. If you find a machine with a faster bus speed, your machine will only goes as fast as the slowest device in the computing chain.
18. Windows Vista Home Basic with SP1 is the current operating system available on all non-Apple computers. I would prefer Vista Home Premium or Vista Professional but Vista Home Basic will suffice most users.
19. Warranty on most laptops is the standard 1 year, but most stores will offer extended warranties but buyer beware as this more of a revenue generator for the stores rather than protection for you. If you are going to use your laptop in battery mode most if the time, extended warranties are a nice feature to replace your battery down the road. Batteries usually last 18 months and they can be expensive.
20. See 19. Above.

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